

Remarks

In the application, claims 1 through 8, 11 through 14, 17 through 19, 21, 23, and 24 are currently pending. No claims have been allowed.

The Final Office Action dated June 5, 2007, has been carefully considered. The Final Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 4 through 9, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23 through 26, 28 through 31, and 33 through 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,463,385 ("Fry"). Claims 3, 10 through 14, 17, 20, 22, 27, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious in light of Fry and U.S. Patent 6,080,063 ("Khosla").

Claim Amendments

In order to expedite prosecution, independent claims 1 and 21 are amended, without prejudice, to focus on particular embodiments taught by the specification. These amended claims are supported by the specification at, for example, page 6, line 9, through page 9, line 14, and by Figures 1 and 2. The amendments to dependent claims 3 and 4 are supported by page 21, lines 11 through 23. Claim 24 is amended to put it into independent form; it is a Beauregard version of claim 1. No new matter is introduced by these amendments.

§§ 102 and 103 Rejections

Fry plots a user's progress on a real-world course. Khosla allows users to virtually participate in a real-world event. However, Fry and Khosla, either separately or together, do not anticipate or render obvious the following element of claim 1, as currently amended:

selecting a second course to be equivalent to the first course,

wherein selecting comprises accessing a geographic database, wherein the second course exists in the real world, and wherein the second course is different from the first course;

(Emphasis added.) (The other independent claims, 21 and 24, contain similar elements). In some of the embodiments of this element discussed in the current specification, the Competition Comparison & Equivalency Program (element 28 in Figure 2) uses geographic information in a

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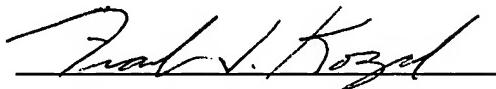
database to select courses whose geographic features are equivalent from the standpoint of a particular competition.

All currently pending claims, either directly or by inheritance, include the above quoted element and are, therefore, patentable over the cited art.

Conclusion

The cited art neither anticipates nor renders obvious the currently pending claims. Thus, this application is considered to be in good and proper form for allowance, and the Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and pass this application on to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the Applicants' representative at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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